

Saturday Night in the Park

A series of FREE presentations at the
Kawuneeche Visitor Center

Saturday evening programs, 7:00 PM The month of June 2012

June 2, 2012 – THE ALPINE WORLD by Cory Richardson, Park Ranger. A drive over Trail Ridge Road affords visitors a unique opportunity to view the fascinating world of the alpine tundra from the comfort of their car. However, for scientists and mountaineers that venture into this world of powerful winds, intense sunlight, and stunted vegetation, the rewards are even greater. A virtual journey into this remarkable ecosystem allows us to discover how tiny plants and tenacious animals such as the American pika have adapted to the demands of life high above the valley floor, as well as the challenges they face due to habitat loss and global climate change.

June 9, 2012 – FOREST FIRES AND BEETLE KILL: LESSONS FROM HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS by Mike Long, Grand Lake Fire Chief. Join Chief Long to find out about the many lessons learned by the Wildland Fire Team as they have fought fires across the country. Using images, he will tell the story of how the fire service responds to 100,000-acre wildfires, the logistics behind supporting thousands of firefighters, and what we are learning about fire behavior through stands of beetle kill. The safety of our firefighters is always paramount, even as we engage in a high hazard environment.

June 23, 2012 – SMALL MOUNTAIN OWLS OF ROCKY by Scott Rashid. When we picture an owl, we often conjure up an image of a large majestic bird like the Great Horned Owl. Did you know that Rocky is home to owls so small they could easily use a pencil as a perch? Four species of small owls are found in Rocky Mountain National Park: the Flammulated Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl and Boreal Owl. Scott, author of *Small Mountain Owls*, will teach us about the lives of these tiny predators that are at home in Rocky's forests.

June 30, 2012 – ENOS MILLS: ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATURALIST by John Stansfield, Storyteller, Award-Winning Author. As a boy and as a man, Enos Mills (1870-1922) lived a remarkable mountain life. From childhood on, his bond with mountains and wilderness inspired him to overcome serious illness and the lack of formal education, money, or influential family to become a successful speaker, writer, naturalist, businessman, and the driving force behind the creation of Rocky Mountain National Park. *Told as a first-person reenactment of Enos Mills.*

The Kawuneeche Visitor Center is located in Rocky Mountain National Park, 1½ miles north of Grand Lake, CO, on Trail Ridge Road (Highway 34). It is open daily except for Christmas Day. For information call: (970) 627-3471